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Press Item for the DCI

Date: 2 Mar
Item: No. 11
Ref: No. _____

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Espionage 340

BONN, Germany AP - West German authorities announced today the arrest of two women on suspicion of spying for Communist East Germany.

One of the women, Irene Schultz, 51, was a secretary in the office of Science and Education Minister Hans Leussink. Her job gave her access to the ministry's secret documents.

The other was identified as Liane Lindner, 42, of Cologne. It was not disclosed where she was employed.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Science and Education said Mrs. Schultz, a widow, had been employed in the ministry since 1962 as a secretary, moving to the minister's office in 1965. This means she also served under Leussink's two predecessors, Hans Lenz and Gerhard Stoltenberg.

The spokesman said Mrs. Schultz reported sick on Friday and that he had no further information on her. The arrests were announced by the office of West Germany's prosecutor-general, Ludwig Martin, in Karlsruhe.

Martin's announcement spoke of an East German spy ring, implying that more arrests could be expected.

As usual in such cases, security officials in Bonn were tight-lipped about the case, disclosing only the bare facts of the arrests.

The Science Ministry is involved in most West German industrial research projects, including those in which Bonn is cooperating with other governments. Presumably the ring had been assigned to get information on these for the East Germans.

There was no hint as to how the ring was discovered.

A similar Communist operation came to light in 1967 when Yevgeni Runge, a Soviet agent living in West Germany, defected to the United States.

His disclosures led to the arrest of a secretary in the Foreign Ministry's personnel department, Leonore Suetterlin, who had passed on secret documents through her husband, Heinz, who worked in Bonn as a press photographer.

Mrs. Suetterlin, 39, committed suicide in jail after her husband's trial brought to light that he had been ordered to marry her by his Communist spy organization. Suetterlin was sentenced to seven years in prison last November.

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Comment: Nothing to add from cable traffic at the moment. CSDO has a copy.

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| TRANSMITTAL SLIP | | DATE |
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| TO: <i>JM</i> | | |
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| REMARKS: AP Licker item on W. German woman <i>PL</i> accused of spying for E. Germans <i>pls return to - GUC</i> | | |
| FROM: <i>PL</i> | | |
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